CAPSULE SUMMARY

Lance Corbin House HA-2064 421 South Main Street Bel Air, Harford County 1938 c. Private

The Lance Corbin House is a one-and-a-half story Cape Cod cottage and is constructed of Butler granite stone. Resting on a solid stone foundation, this house is three bays wide capped with a side-gable, slate-tile roof with one exterior-end, stone chimney. Flanking the central entry are two replacement bay windows. Above the roof are two gable dormers clad with aluminum siding containing 6/6 windows. The facade features a recessed one-and-a-half story wing section with a gable roof. The shed-roof porch is located on the façade of the recessed wing and is supported with square wood posts.

The Lance Corbin House is a typical example of a modest Cape Cod cottage dating to 1938 within the Bradford Heights Addition to the Town of Bel Air, Maryland. Ubiquitous throughout the United States, Cape Cod cottages, which were built during the late 1930s through the 1940s, are numerous in Bel Air and are scattered throughout town in each of the 1920s and 1930s additions such as Bradford Heights. Beginning in the 1930s throughout the United States, the trend was for small, economical, and mass-produced houses, which was fulfilled by the modest Cape Cod style cottages. This building at 421 South Main Street is significant as a house built by Nathan Corbin, the founder of the Corbin Fuel Company, which was started in 1918. The Corbin Fuel Company was considered the County's largest and oldest fuel company at the turn of the twentieth century. Nathan Corbin and his wife, Ann Elizabeth Corbin, purchased this property and the adjacent property at 429 South Main Street (HA-2065) and had these two modest, stone Cape Cod cottages constructed for their sons shortly after their sons marriages.

Inventory No. HA-2064

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of I	Property	(indicate preferred r	name)				
historic	Lance Corbin F	House					
other							
2. Location							
street and number	421 South Mair	n Street				not for p	oublication
city, town	Bel Air					vicinity	
county	Harford						
3. Owner of	Property	(give names and mailing	addresses of a	all owners)			
name	Four Hundred	Twenty One South Main Stre	et, LLC				
street and number	421 South Mair	Street		tel	ephone	N/A	
city, town	Bel Air		state MD	zip	code	21014	
Contri Deterr Deterr Recor	buting Resource i mined Eligible for mined Ineligible fo ded by HABS/HAI	in National Register District n Local Historic District the National Register/Maryla ir the National Register/Maryl ER rt or Research Report at MH	and Register				
Other:							
6. Classifica	tion						
Category	Ownership Current Function			F	Resource Count		
districtX_building(s)structuresiteobject	publicX_privateboth	agricultureXcommerce/tradedefensedomesticeducationfunerarygovernment health care	religion social transport work in p	en/culture tation progress	2 2		contributing buildings sites structure objects Total

7. Description		Inventory No. HA-2064
Condition		
excellent	deteriorated	

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Site Description

ruins

altered

X good

fair

The Lance Corbin House is located at 421 South Main Street, Bel Air in Harford County, Maryland. Facing southwest, this dwelling is sited along the street on a level grassy lot. Several mature trees and foundation plantings surround the dwelling and a paved driveway leads to a paved parking lot to the rear of the house. A circa 1938 garage is sited to the rear of the dwelling.

Exterior Description

The Lance Corbin House is a one-and-a-half story Cape Cod cottage and is constructed of Butler granite stone from the Butler quarry in Baltimore County, Maryland. Resting on a solid stone foundation, this house is three bays wide capped with a side-gable, slate-tile roof with one exterior-end, stone chimney. The central entry contains a modern four-panel wood door with a half-round beveled light. The Colonial Revival-style door surround consists of flush pilasters on plinths and the heavily molded cornice features a cyma recta, cavetto, and a denticulated course above a flush frieze. Flanking the entry are two bay windows each with 4/4 double-hung, vinyl-sash windows flanking a 16-light, fixed vinyl window. The bay windows are not original and the remaining windows except where noted are all replacement, double-hung, vinyl sashes. Above the roof are two gable dormers clad with aluminum siding containing 6/6 windows. The roof features overhanging eaves, a wide fascia board, and a boxed cornice. The facade features a recessed one-and-a-half story wing section with a gable roof. The shed-roof porch is located on the façade of the recessed wing and is supported with square wood posts. The porch features a roof-top balustrade, a stone foundation, and stone floor. The first story has square balusters and the roof-top balusters use turned.

The first story of the northwest elevation features one 6/6 window and a pair of 6-light, wood casement windows. Each of the windows on the first story of this house feature square-edged stone sills. The second story is illuminated on this elevation with one 6/6 window and one modern 9-light/2-panel door. The basement windows contain two 1-light, metal awning windows with concrete parged wells.

Continuing to the rear elevation, facing northeast, the first story contains one 6/6 window, one 4-light vinyl casement window, one modern 2-light (beveled)/2-panel wood door, and one original 9-light/2-panel wood door. A shed-roof portico with square posts and balusters covers the 2-light/2-panel door and a pent roof with knee braces covers the 9light/2-panel door. A bulkhead entrance with a double door is located on this elevation. The upper story features a shedroof dormer covering nearly the full-width of the elevation. This aluminum-clad dormer contains three 6/6 windows. The first story of the wing is pierced with one 6/6 window.

Finally, the southeast elevation of the main block is pierced with one 9-light vinyl casement window on the first story. The second story of the main block on this elevation contains a modern 9-light/2-panel wood door. The southeast elevation of the wing section contains two 6/6 windows on the first story and the second story is pierced with one 6/6 window.

Name Lance Corbin House Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

Interior Description

The Lance Corbin House features a central stair with a three room plan. Today the living room, dining room, and each of the bedrooms on the second floor are used as offices, however, they will be referred throughout the description to their original uses. The dining room and kitchen are located on the north side of the house and a living room is on the south side. The central entry opens into the foyer, which contains the carpeted straight-flight stair to the second floor. The stair features tapered balusters, a curtail railing and step, and the first four steps are an open stringer and the remainder of the stair is enclosed. The floorboards of the foyer are 2 1/2 inch pine floorboards that appear to be original. The walls and ceiling throughout the house are painted plaster. One modern four-panel wood door accesses a closet adjacent to the stair. An arched doorway leads to the living room and a modern four-panel wood door opens into the dining room. The modern wood surrounds throughout the house consist of a fillet, ogee, fascia, and a cavetto molding profile.

The living room to the south side of the stairway runs the full depth of the house and features a stone fireplace. The fireplace has a granite hearth and a stone chimney breast with a wood mantel shelf. The living room floor is covered with carpet and the six-inch replacement baseboard features a quarter-round base molding. The original crown molding consists of a cyma recta, fillet, terminating with a cavetto molding. A modern four-panel wood door leads to the one-room wing on the southeast elevation, which now functions as an office. The walls are clad with beaded vertical boards and the ceiling is covered with beaded boards with paneled exposed ceiling joists. The baseboard is five-inches with no moldings and the floor in this room is covered with carpet. This room features a stone fireplace with a granite hearth and a square-edged stone mantel shelf.

The dining room on the north side of the stair has similar floors, baseboard, walls, ceiling, and surrounds as the living room. There are two original attached corner buffets, one in the west corner and one in the north corner, each with a 12-light arched cabinet door over one flush door with a bas relief urn. The tops of the buffets are curvilinear and the sides flanking the doors are reeded. Continuing through a modern four-panel wood door at the rear of the dining room is the kitchen. The kitchen features painted plaster walls and ceiling, and a ceramic tile floor. The surrounds and baseboard are similar to the living room. The kitchen was partitioned to add a bathroom to the northeast. The bathroom has an exterior door, a ceramic-tile floor, and a baseboard similar to the living room.

The southeast wall in the kitchen has non-historic opening that leads to a dog-leg stair to the basement. A three-panel double door leads to a small office/hall located between the kitchen and the living room. The rear office is carpeted, and the walls, ceiling, baseboard, and surrounds are similar to the living room. A closet with a two-panel wood door is on the northeast wall of the office.

The basement consists of four distinct spaces; two offices, one electrical room, and one storage room. The office floors are carpeted and the walls in one office is clad with beaded vertical boards and the second room is drywall. The ceiling is covered with dropped acoustic tiles. The office to the southeast features a brick base where the chimney is located. This room features access to the electrical closet. The floor of the electrical closet and storage room are covered with original linoleum tiles.

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Name Lance Corbin House Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

Secondary Resources

The circa 1938 stone garage is one story in height, two bays wide, and two bays deep. It rests on a solid foundation and the front-gable roof is sheathed with slate tiles and features overhanging eaves. The two bays on the facade contain two, modern roll-up paneled, vinyl garage doors. The gable on the facade is clad with aluminum siding. The southwest elevation contains one 6/6 double-hung, vinyl-sash window and one six-panel wood door with a brass knob.

ance			Inventory No. HA-2064
Areas of Significance	Check and j	ustify below	
agriculture archeology architecture art commerce communications X community planning conservation	economics education engineering entertainment/ recreation ethnic heritage exploration/ settlement	health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime history military	performing arts philosophy politics/government e religion science social history transportation other:
1938		Architect/Builder Unk	mown
ates 1938			
National Register	N	laryland Register	Xnot evaluated
	Areas of Significance agriculture archeology architecture art commerce communications X community planning conservation 1938	Areas of Significance _ agriculture	Areas of Significance agricultureeconomicshealth/medicineindustryindustryarchitectureengineeringinventionartentertainment/landscape architecturecommercerecreationlawcommunicationsethnic heritageliteratureX community planningexploration/maritime historyconservationsettlementmilitary 1938

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Statement of Significance

The Lance Corbin House is a typical example of a modest Cape Cod cottage dating to 1938 within the Bradford Heights Addition to the Town of Bel Air, Maryland. The dwelling is one-and-a-half stories, with a rectangular footprint, symmetrical fenestration, a central entry, a side-gable roof, and two gable dormers on the facade, all characteristics common of Cape Cod dwellings. Ubiquitous throughout the United States, Cape Cod cottages, which were built during the late 1930s through the 1940s, are numerous in Bel Air and are scattered throughout town in each of the 1920s and 1930s additions such as Bradford Heights. Beginning in the 1930s throughout the United States, the trend was for small, economical, and mass-produced houses, which was fulfilled by the modest Cape Cod style cottages. This building at 421 South Main Street is significant as a house built by Nathan Corbin, the founder of the Corbin Fuel Company, which was started in 1918. The Corbin Fuel Company was considered the County's largest and oldest fuel company at the turn of the twentieth century. Nathan Corbin and his wife, Ann Elizabeth Corbin, purchased this property and the adjacent property at 429 South Main Street (HA-2065) and had these two modest, stone Cape Cod cottages constructed for their sons shortly after their sons marriages.

Development of Bel Air: Late 19th and Mid 20th Century

The proximity to Baltimore City, the arrival of the railroad, the introduction of the automobile, and improvement of roads allowed for greater prosperity within Harford County and particularly the Town of Bel Air. Bel Air was home to a building boom of the late nineteenth century and again after World War I. Hays, Richardson's, and the two Dallam's Additions are the primary residential developments of the late 19th century and early 20th century that took place within the Bel Air town limits.

Hays Addition is bounded on the south by Baltimore Pike, to the west by Archer Street, to the north by Thomas Street, and to the east by Bond Street. The Hays Addition was platted in 1886 and only three lots sold at this time. Between 1887 and 1917 only nine more lots were sold in this section of Bel Air. Marilynn M. Larew, historian, states that the reason for the slow building pace in Hays Addition could be the lots were priced much higher than lots in other sections of Bel Air such as in Dallam's Additions and Richardson's Addition.¹

¹ Marilynn M. Larew, Bel Air: An Architectural and Cultural History, 1782-1945 (Bel Air, MD: Town of Bel Air, 1995), p. 170.

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The boundaries for Richardson's Addition are Bond Street to the east, Alice Anne Street to the south, Richardson Street to the west, and Nichols Street on the north. Lots began selling in 1886, however, it was not officially platted and recorded until 1911. By 1917, fifteen houses stood along Alice Anne Street, which became an African-American working class neighborhood. Not including the dwellings on Alice Anne Street, seventeen houses were constructed in Richardson's Addition between 1914 and 1945.²

Major Dallam's Addition was platted in 1883 and the boundaries are the MA & PA Railroad to the south, Dallam Avenue to the north, Rockspring Avenue to the east, and several lots past Mast Street to the west. Due to the proximity to the railroad, several lots were built upon for industrial and commercial uses as well as worker's housing. Dallam's second addition is located to the north of Dallam's first addition including Roland Avenue, Rockspring Avenue, and Hall Street. In the late 1880s, the west side of Rockspring Avenue was built upon followed by construction on Roland Avenue after 1890. Eleven houses were constructed in Dallam's second addition between 1885 and 1914.

Following World War I, Bel Air prospered with numerous suburban developments on the outskirts of the downtown core. Three of the larger additions to Bel Air during the 1920s include Fulford Park (1922), Ingleside (1923), and Kenmore (1924). The area that is Fulford Park originally was made up of 18 acres running from Main Street and Fulford Avenue, South to Linwood Avenue, and East to Ewing Street. Other streets included in Fulford Park are Maitland Street and Powell Avenue. Unlike the slow development of the late 19th century developments of Hays and Richardson's Additions, the lots in Fulford Park sold quickly and construction began immediately. The real estate agents responsible for selling the lots of Fulford Park advertised and auctioned the lots on one day in 1922 soon after it was platted. One hundred thirty six lots sold in one day bringing in a total of \$12,000.

The area known as Ingleside off North Hickory Avenue is bounded by Wright Street to the south and McCormick Lane to the north. This section of Bel Air was subdivided and platted by J. Edwin Webster, son of Colonel Edwin Hanson Webster, in April 1923. Oliver T. Wallace and Samuel Dameron were the real estate agents responsible for the sales. According to Larew, Ingleside was the "place to build between the wars" and continued to expand after 1945. Similar to Fulford Park, Ingleside held an auction to handle the sales of the lots which occurred in April or May of 1923. Ingleside developed rapidly, much more so than any other previous development made to Bel Air. According to Larew, the "first two blocks on East Broadway and Webster were full" by the end of the 1920s. A total of sixteen houses were constructed in the 1920s—"faster than any previous addition in town."

In 1919, Robert and Anne Heighe purchased 99 acres of Hanway's farm, which was platted in 1924 by the local real estate firm of Vaughn, Warren, and Wells, using their namesake for the subdivision. Today, the addition is better known as the Kenmore addition. The lots were auctioned on September 22, 1924 and a total of 199 lots were sold equaling \$19,500.

² Larew, p. 172.

³ Larew, pp. 173-176.

⁴ Larew, pp. 181-183.

⁵ Larew, pp. 181-181.

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Name Lance Corbin House Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Due to the building boom in Harford County in the 1920s and 1930s, the pre-World War I developments in Bel Air were being steadily built upon similar to the new developments of the early 1920s. A section of Dallam's second addition, which includes Hall Street, was re-surveyed and platted in 1931 as the Rock Spring Addition. This new plat consisted of two blocks with a total of 102 lots and is bounded to the north by Vale Road, to the east by Rockspring Avenue, to the south by Hall Street, and to the west by Roland Avenue. Robinson Street runs north south and connects Hall Street to Vale Road, originally called Bel Air-Watervale Road. Block A of Rock Spring Addition was platted with fifty-five lots, the majority of which are equal size of twenty-five feet wide and 100 feet deep. Block B of this addition contains forty-seven lots, most of which were of similar size to the lots in Block A.

After the platting of the Rock Spring Addition, several more residential developments were constructed within the town limits. Development slowed dramatically between the mid-1930s and the early 1950s. Because of the Town's proximity and association to the Aberdeen Proving Ground, a U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Bel Air experienced a remarkable population decline during the mid- to late-1940s due to the Proving Ground downsizing after World War II. In the early 1950s, Bel Air regained its population numbers as it was experiencing in the 1930s and numerous developments occurred during the 1950s and early 1960s including such examples as Howard Park (1951), Shamrock (1955), and Homestead Village (early 1960s).

Lance Corbin House

The Lance Corbin House is located at 421 South Main Street in the Bradford Heights subdivision of Bel Air, Maryland. Bel Air is in the Third District of Harford County. Bradford Heights is a subdivision that was platted on November 12, 1934 and the real estate agent responsible for selling the lots was S.E. Dameron from Newark, Delaware. The subdivision is bounded by Giles Street to the northeast, Eastern Avenue to the southeast, and South Main Street to the southwest. It consists of five blocks with a total of 105 lots, which are typically 25 feet by 150 feet. Lavinia Bradford owned the farmland that comprised just over 26 acres from which Bradford Heights was platted.

The property at 421 South Main Street is sited on Block A on lots 3, 4, 5, 6, and 27 in Bradford Heights. The lot was purchased by Nathan and Ann Elizabeth Corbin in 1934 two weeks after Bradford Heights had been platted. Nathan Corbin started the Corbin Fuel Company in 1918, which in 1998 was considered the County's largest and oldest fuel company. The Corbin Fuel Company started by selling wood and coal, which was shipped along the MA & PA Railroad. During the 1920s, the company was known as the Corbin Ice and Coal company. According to the Federal Census on 1930, Nathan Corbin, his wife, Ann Elizabeth Corbin, and two sons, Lance (16) and Claiborne (13), resided on Main Street in his house valued at \$10,000. At the time of the 1930 census, three lodgers lived with the Corbin family. Nathan Corbin was a member of the original board of directors for the Commercial and Savings Bank in Bel Air and he served as

⁶ Aegis, 12/2/1998.

⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census, The Census of 1900-1930, Harford County, Virginia, Census searched from http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library (7 December 2004).

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Name Lance Corbin House Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

a Town Commissioner from 1935 to 1958. Corbin retired from Corbin Fuel Company in 1961 and passed away ten years later at the age of 81.

It appears that Nathan and Ann Corbin built the house at 421 South Main Street in 1938 and then conveyed it to their oldest son, Lance Nathaniel Corbin and his wife. Lance and Grace H. Corbin married on August 6, 1936 and the wedding announcement from the *Aegis* stated that the Corbin's would be residing on Main Street after the wedding. Lance Corbin's daughters, Jean Weems, Betty Scarff, and Susan Bevins, were raised in 421 South Main Street. Lance Corbin worked in dentistry and retired in 1978 after 42 years of practice in Bel Air and passed away on May 28, 1993 in Edgewood, Maryland. Approximately a year following his death, Corbin's daughters sold the property to 421 South Main Street, LLC, who are the current owners of the property. Kay Dietz Realty currently maintains their office in this building.

Chain-of-Title

All information taken from the Bel Air Courthouse

January 7, 1909

Grantor: George W.W. Bradford

Grantee: Lavinia Bradford Deed Book WSF 127 Folio 100

November 28, 1934

Grantor: Lavinia Bradford and William A. Bradford (husband), and George A. Hays

Grantee: Earl Burkins and Nathan Corbin

Deed Book SWC 234 Folio 261

June 24, 1937

Grantor: Nathan and Ann Corbin, and Earl R. and Mosena Burkins

Grantee: Robert Archer, Jr. Deed Book 246 Folio 215

[Bradford Heights Block A, lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]

June 24, 1937

Grantor: Robert Archer, Jr.

Grantee: Nathan and Ann Corbin

Deed Book 246 Folio 216

[Bradford Heights Block A lots 3, 4, 5, 6]

June 14, 1938

Grantor: Nathan P. and Ann Elizabeth Corbin

Grantee: Lance N. and Grace H. Corbin

⁸ Claiborne Corbin, brother to Lance Corbin, resided in the adjacent house at 429 South Main Street, which was also built by Nathan Corbin.

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Number 8 Page 4

Deed Book MEWR 251 Folio 408 Will Book HLWH 21 Folio 69, No. 26,972

March 1, 1994

Grantor: Elizabeth C. Scarff, Jean C. Weems, and Susan C. Bevins, Personal Representatives

of the Estate of Lance Nathaniel Corbin Grantee: 421 South Main Street, LLC Deed Book 2103 Folio 850 & 853

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HA-2064

Bel Air Courthouse, Land Records. Bel Air, MD

Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Baltimore City. Harford County Telephone Directory, 1936, 1950-1951, 1951-1952,1963, Baltimore City, MD.

Harford County Historical Society. Vertical Files. Bel Air, MD.

Larew, Marilynn M. Bel Air: An Architectural and Cultural History, 1782-1945. Bel Air, MD: Town of Bel Air, MD, 1995.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. The Census of 1900-1930, Harford County, Maryland. Census searched from

http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library (7 December 2004).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property
Acreage of historical setting
Quadrangle name

O.490 acres
O.490 acres

Ouddrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Lance Corbin House is located at 421 South Main Street in Bel Air, Maryland in the Third District of Harford County. It is associated with tax map 301 parcel 1396. This property is located on Block A on lots 3, 4, 5, 6, and 27 in the Bradford Heights subdivision platted in 1934.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kristie Baynard/Architectural Historian			
organization	Arcadia Preservation, LLC	date	February 4, 2005	
street & number	805 Caroline Street	telephone	703.798.8124	
city or town	Fredericksburg	state	VA	

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

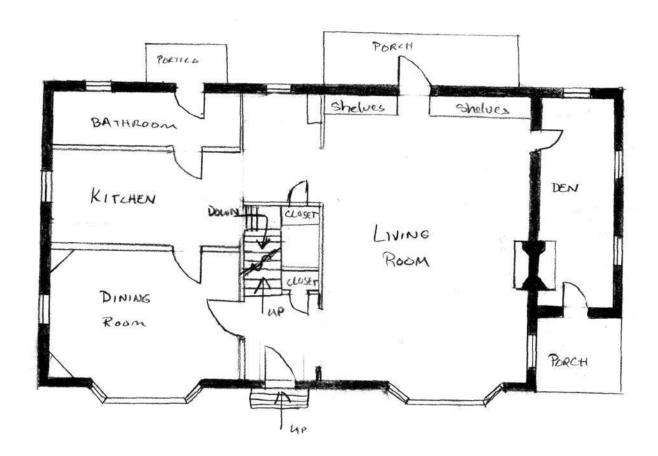
return to:

Maryland Historical Trust DHCD/DHCP 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 410-514-7600

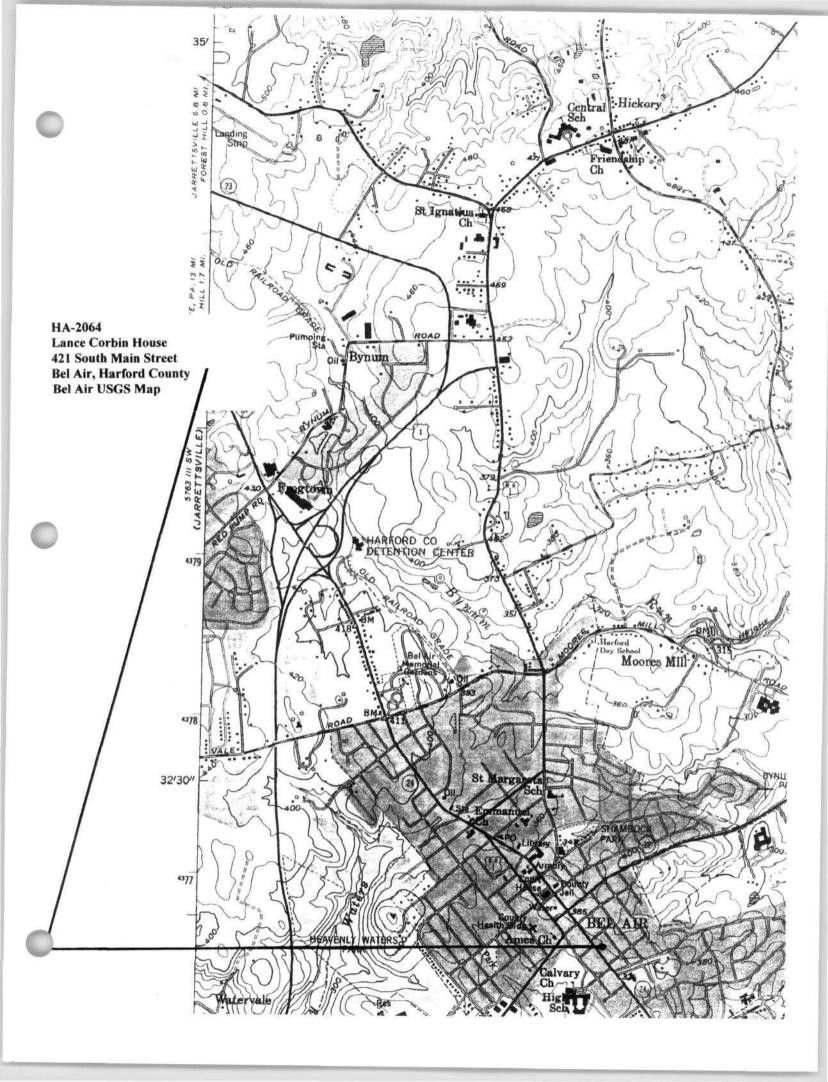
HA-2064 LANCE CORBIN HOUSE 421 South Main Street Bel Air, MA Harford County SITE PLAN S. Main Street

LANCE CORGIN House
421 S. Main Street
Bel Air, MD
Harford County
1st floor Plan





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HA-2064
lance Carlin House
421 S. Main St.
Bel Air, Harford Co.
Arcadia Preservation
1/2005
MD SHIPO
SW ELEVATION



cance Corsin House 421 S. Main St. Bel Air, Harford Co. Arcadia Preservation



HA-2064 Cance Corbin House 421 S. Main St. Bel Air, Harfad Co. Arcadia Preservation 12005 MO SHPO GARAGE, SOUTH CORNER



HA- 2064 Lance Corbin House 421 S. Main St. Bel Air, Harford Co. Arcadia Preservation 1/2005 MD SHPO 1st floor, hall, view looking EAST



lance Corbin House
421 S. Main St.
Bel Air, Harford Co.
Arcadia Preservation
1/2005
MD SHPO
1st floor, living room, view looking east

HA-2064



HA-2069
Lance Corbin House
421 S. Main St.
Bel Air, Harford Co.
Arcadia Preservation
1/2005
MD 9480
Let floor, drning room, view looking NW
6 of 9



HA-2064
Lance Corbin House
421 S. Main St.
Bel Air, Harford County
Arcadia Preservation
1/2005
MD SHAD
1st floor, Kitchen, view looking SE
7 28-9



Ha-2064
Lance Corbin House
4215. Main St.
Bel Air, Harford County
Arcadia Preservation
1/2005
MD SHPO
1st floor, den, view lasting west



HA-2064 Lance Corbin House 421 S. Main St. Bel Air, Harford Co. Arcadia Preservation 1/2005 MD SHPO 2nd floor, hall, view looking North



HA-2064 Lance Consin House 421 S. Main St. Bel Air, Harford Co. Areadia Preservation 1/2005 MD SHPO 2nd floor, bedroom, view looking west